

Jacqui Fay

From: Cheshire County Conservation District <benee+cheshireconservation.org@ccsend.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 8:01 AM
To: Jacqui Fay
Subject: Conservation News: December Newsletter

Conservation News December 2021

News & Updates

- December Conservation Blog
- Community Supported Solar for Farms! Limited Shares Remaining!
- This Giving Season, Support CCCD
- NH DAMF Directory
- Conservation Opportunity Fund
- MFC Farm Fund
- NH Farm Future Fund
- Share Your Conservation Story with Us! CCCD's Community Member Spotlight!
- NH Master Gardener Class 2022! Now Accepting Applications!
- NH Queer Farmers Virtual Gathering
- Register for the New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference!
- Register for NOFA NH's Annual Winter Conference!



CHESHIRE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



SOIL



WATER



WILDLIFE

December Blog Article

Grant Opportunities, Events & Community Info

See what local conservation events are happening in the upcoming months and review important community info!

Resources & Services

Discover local resources like our [Find A Local Farm Map](#) always available to you at the Cheshire County Conservation District.

Connect with us [on social media](#) for up to date events, articles, and information!

2021: A Year of Resilience, Strength, and Success!

**By: Benée Hershon, CCCD
Outreach Coordinator**

2021 has been a year of resilience in Cheshire County. CCCD has had the honor of continuing our work with this amazing community for a 76th year! In 2021, we have continued our ongoing conservation efforts and programming, along with introducing new programs and opportunities for our community! Read about our new programs and this year's highlights!

[Click here to read "2021: A Year of Resilience, Strength, and Success!"](#)

Community Supported Solar for Farms! Limited Number of Shares Remaining!

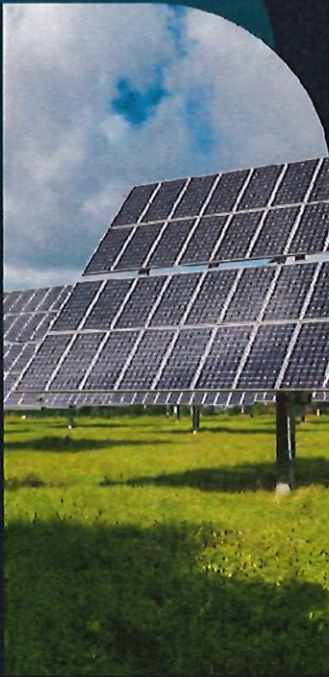
The Monadnock Region Community Supported Solar project, or CSS, brings together Farmers, Investors and Champions to use available financial models to help local farms realize the potential of the renewable energy economy.

Farmers in New Hampshire face significant energy expenses to run their businesses. This project will help to stabilize and lower costs of electricity for participating farms through the Community Supported Solar framework and in turn, increase the viability of those farms.

There are a limited number of shares remaining for farms in the EverSource territory interested in participating!

- Interested farmers should contact Amanda Littleton directly to reserve their shares; first come first served until sold out.

Either send an email to amanda@cheshireconservation.org or call 607-756-2988 x4 and leave a voicemail.



COMMUNITY SUPPORTED SOLAR FOR FARMS

The Monadnock Region Community Supported Solar project, or CSS, brings together Farmers, Investors and Champions to use available financial models to help local farms realize the potential of the renewable energy economy.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

By purchasing a share, you will be a member of the Farmers Members Group, made up of the farmers who have also purchased a share. The participating farms will enter into a Limited Liability Company (LLC) named Community Supported Solar for Farms with an operating agreement, and will benefit from stable low cost electricity. This Farmers LLC will work together with CCCD and investors to take ownership of the array in 6 years through a buyout. The array has already been built at Sun Moon Farm of Rindge, NH.

After the buyout happens, the farmers group will own the system into the future and members will benefit from net metering based on shares owned in the system.

CHESHIRECONSERVATION.ORG/SOLAR

[More Information Here!](#)

This Giving Season, Support CCCD!

This giving season, we ask that you consider making a donation to Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD). For the past 76 years, we have been able to serve this incredible community thanks to generous contributions from donors like you!

A donation to CCCD is an investment in our community's future! Every dollar goes to funding our conservation efforts and helps to strengthen our community.

Ways to Strengthen Your Support of CCCD:

- Become a monthly supporter of CCCD
- Make a one-time donation
- Lead a fundraiser for CCCD (in honor of your birthday, in memory of a loved one, etc., please see contact information below to get in touch with CCCD staff!)
- Forward this email to a friend, family member, neighbor, etc.!

We appreciate your interest and support. Contributions of any amount make a difference and are greatly appreciated!

Support CCCD's Conservation Efforts

Prefer to donate through the mail? Checks can be made payable to "CCCD" and addressed to 11 Industrial Park Dr., Walpole, NH 03608. Interested in leading a CCCD fundraiser? Email info@cheshireconservation.org or call 603-756-2988 x3011

**NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food Farm
Directory Registration Deadline: January 10, 2022!**

The NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food is in the process of redesigning and updating their online agriculture directories. They are also planning a new Ornamental Horticulture Directory.

In order for your farm to be listed, or continue to be listed, in the directories of your choice, please complete the **Farm Directory Registration** form and return to Maria VanderWoude by **January 10, 2022**. Forms should be emailed to Maria.J.Vanderwoude@agr.nh.gov

The current directories can be viewed, [here!](#)


A completed registration form is required to include your farm in NHDAMF's publications.

Maria can be contacted with any questions or concerns at **603-271-3788** or Maria.J.Vanderwoude@agr.nh.gov

[Download Form Here!](#)

Help CCCD Spread the Word! Share your Conservation Events and News with Us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn!





**Attention farmers, foresters,
and conservationists of
Cheshire County!**

**Share your events or latest
news with us to share on
our profile or newsletter!**

**Make sure to tag us or send a
DM!**

2022 Grant Opportunities!

**Apply for the 2022 Conservation
Opportunity Fund!**



2022 Conservation Opportunity Fund

Are you interested in making a meaningful long-term impact on wildlife habitat and biodiversity on your property?

Open to Cheshire County, NH residents with tracts of land 25 acres or less

- Submit a detailed plan for site preparation, education, long-term maintenance and sustainability
- Examples of past projects include: rain gardens, native pollinator habitat, early successional habitat, and more!
- Receive reimbursement for up to \$1,500 to implement your project!

**Submit your proposal by
February 1, 2022!**

cheshireconservation.org/conservation-opportunity-fund

The mission of the Conservation Opportunity Fund is to provide funding for owners of small tracts of land who are interested in improving the

wildlife habitat on their property. This program is an annual opportunity to support environmental stewardship and the ecological integrity of Cheshire County, NH.

The Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD) requests proposals from landowners of small tracts, less than 25 acres, who seek funding to make meaningful long-term impact on wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

CCCD will be holding an optional virtual informational session for interested applicants on **January 4th, 2022** at 12:00pm on zoom!

Informational Session #1 recording now available, **[watch here!](#)**

Proposals are due by February 1, 2022!

More Information and Apply Here!

**Apply for the 2022 Monadnock Food Co-Op
Farm Fund!**



Apply for the 2022 Monadnock Food Co-op Farm Fund Grant!

Funds can be used to support a range of projects, including the purchase of equipment and infrastructure, packaging and labeling design needs, and technical assistance.

**Open to farmers in Cheshire County and
abutting NH towns!**

**Interested farmers are invited to attend
one of two Information Sessions:**

Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 12 p.m. on zoom

Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 5 p.m. on zoom

**For more information and to
apply, visit:**

cheshireconservation.org/farm-fund

Apply by February 1, 2022!



The Monadnock Food Co-op Farm Fund program, in partnership with the Cheshire County Conservation District, is now accepting applications from

local farmers. Currently, in its sixth year, the fund has supported sixteen farms in the Monadnock Region

The Monadnock Food Co-op Farm Fund's mission is to support local farmers in increasing sustainable food production and wholesale sales to contribute to a thriving local farm economy. This grant supports several of the co-op's goals, including building a healthy, sustainable food system, supporting local farmers and producers, and contributing to a strong, sustainable, and improving local economy.

Interested farmers are invited to attend one of two Monadnock Food Co-op Farm Fund Information Sessions on **December 9, 2021** at 12:00pm and **January 4, 2022** at 5:00pm!

Applications are due February 1, 2022!

[More Information and Apply Here!](#)

Apply for the 2022 NH Farm Future Fund!

NH FARM FUTURE FUND

NHFFF provides funding for farm viability planning in concert with the conservation of important agricultural soils.

The goal of NHFFF is to ensure that farmland is conserved, productive, and available for future generations.

Funding is available for NH Land Trusts with farmland conservation projects. NHFFF funds:

- Financial assistance to offset costs associated with farmland conservation projects
- Technical assistance to support farm business viability and succession planning

**APPLICATIONS DUE
FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**[cheshireconservation.org](https://cheshireconservation.org/nhfarmfuturefund)
[/nhfarmfuturefund](https://cheshireconservation.org/nhfarmfuturefund)**

The mission of the NH Farm Future Fund is to provide funding for farm viability planning in concert with the conservation of important agricultural soils.

Funding available to NH Land Trusts for:

- (1) Financial assistance to offset costs associated with farmland conservation projects
- (2) Technical assistance to support farm business viability and succession planning

This program will leverage the singular opportunity of putting a conservation easement on farmland to also invest in the future viability of the farm business. The goal of this fund is to ensure that farmland is conserved, productive, and available for future generations.

This is an integrated approach to funding farm viability, farmland conservation, and farmland access. Applicants should be committed to bringing together experts in land conservation, succession planning, and farm viability to advance the Farm Partner's stated business goals.

All materials are due by February 15, 2022!

[More Information and Apply Here!](#)

Events & Community Info

CCCD Community Member Spotlight! Share Your Conservation Story With Us!

CCCD is looking for interested community members for our monthly community member spotlight! Share about a current or past conservation related project or program that CCCD supported or introduced you to!

As part of the community spotlight, CCCD will share your story in our newsletter, press release, and social media. It is a great way to gain exposure and share your work! Community Member Spotlight participants can choose to write a short blog post, or conduct a short interview over the phone or zoom!

Interested? Email Benée Hershon at benee@cheshireconservation.org or leave a voicemail at 603-756-2988 x3011!

NH Master Gardener Class 2022: Taking Place in Hancock, NH! Apply Today!

Master Gardeners are trained volunteers, who share their enthusiasm for gardening with the general public.

By serving as volunteer educators in their community, Master Gardeners help UNH Cooperative Extension reach more people. The 12-week training is offered each spring and fall. The next class will be held on **Thursdays** from **March 3 – May 19, 2022** at the **Harris Center for Conservation Education** in Hancock.

Future classes will be in different parts of the state, based on demand and regional distribution.

The fee for the class is \$300 plus \$25 for a printed manual (electronic versions are available for free). Scholarship funds are available. Anyone interested in the training must complete an application and qualified applicants will be interviewed prior to acceptance to the class.

Due to our emphasis on building regional cohorts, preference for this spring's class will be given to candidates from Cheshire and western Hillsborough Counties along with other southwestern New Hampshire communities.



Extension Master Gardeners



NEW HAMPSHIRE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

The program started at Washington State University in 1973. The name "Master Gardener" came from the German word "Gartenmeister," which roughly translated means "Master Gardener." The originators of the program had worked in Germany and learned that Germans bestow titles for hard-earned proficiency levels in various crafts.

The New Hampshire program started in 1993. Master Gardeners are trained volunteers, who share their enthusiasm for gardening with the general public. By serving as volunteer educators in their community, Master Gardeners help UNH Cooperative Extension programs reach more people.

A Master Gardener is:

- A **volunteer** who is willing to work on horticultural projects that extends the outreach capabilities of UNH Cooperative Extension
- A **gardener** with interest, experience and knowledge of any type of gardening
- A **teacher** who is eager to share gardening knowledge and experience with others
- A **student** curious to learn scientifically-based gardening information

This is a volunteer program and is not for professional advancement or commercial advertising.

Some projects that Master Gardeners are involved with:

- Education Center Call Center
- School/youth gardens
- Museum docents
- Speakers' bureau
- Writing articles for local publications
- Farmers' Market and Country Club

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer. University of New Hampshire, U.S. Department of Agriculture and N.H. counties cooperating.

Master Gardener Fun Facts

Approximately **450** Master Gardeners in NH.

A Master Gardener is required to do at least **15 hours** per year but most do many more!

In 2017, Master Gardeners volunteered for **8,596.25 project** hours and did **2,194.54 hours** at the Education Center Call Center.

"With the knowledge I gained from the UNH Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program, I have improved my home gardening abilities and gained confidence in what I'm doing. This has led to discussions with people in my community to help them realize that gardening has many benefits, in addition, to being good for your soul."
-Belknap County Master Gardener

UNH Cooperative Extension puts trusted information and practical expertise in the hands of New Hampshire citizens and organizations. We are at work in every New Hampshire county, making the state's farms and related industries stronger; developing vibrant communities and municipal leaders, and fostering healthy families and an informed and engaged citizenry.

www.extension.unh.edu

More Information and Apply Here!

NH Queer Farmers Virtual Gathering

Monday, December 13th, 2021

7:30pm

Online

Calling all NH queer farmers*! We know awesome queer folx are out here in our state and we're looking to come together to form community, assess needs, and also share some exciting opportunities that are heading our way.

We're planning a virtual gathering on Monday, December 13th at 7:30 pm. If you are interested in attending, please email nhqueerfarmers@gmail.com for zoom details.

*Note: when we say "NH queer farmers" we mean anyone is a farm worker, farm owner, or aspiring farmer/homesteader who is living and/or working in the state of New Hampshire and identifies with the word queer.



New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference

	MON Dec. 13	TUES Dec. 14	WED Dec. 15	THURS Dec. 16	FRI Dec. 17
Morning Session 9:00- 11:00am	Tillage Reduction Innovations	Tree Fruit 1	Vegetable Disease and Pest Updates	Berry Crops 2	Automation for Small Vegetable Growers
Afternoon Session 1:30- 3:30pm	Climate Adaption Strategies on the Farm	Berry Crops 1	Soil Health	Tree Fruit 2	Inspiration from Away

New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference 2021!

**Monday thru Friday, December 13-17th, 2021
Online**

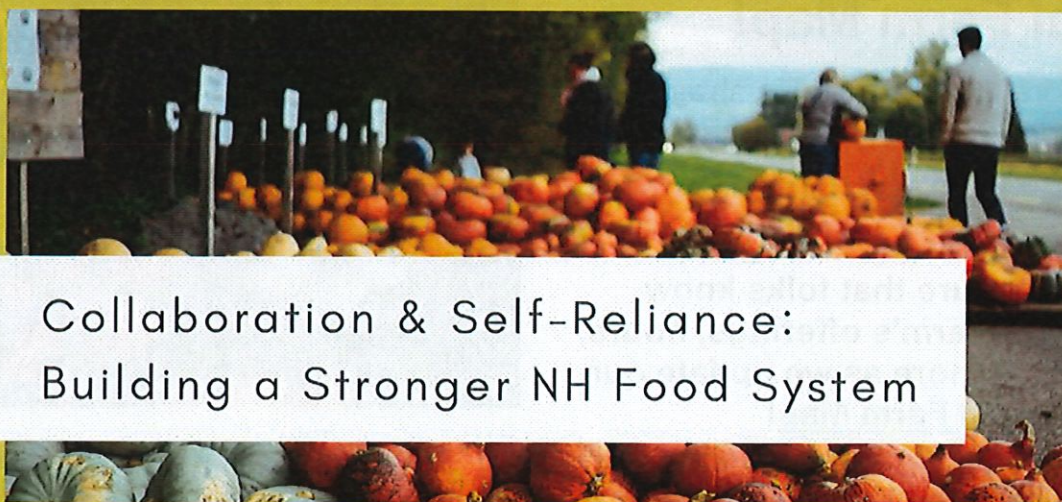
The New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference 2021 will take place online next week! Conference organizers have designed a high quality program with grower input, recruiting some of the most innovative farmers, educators and researchers across the northeast and beyond.

\$50 registration fee gains you full access to the program and 3-months access to the recordings. Each person seeking pesticide or CCA credits must register individually and join the zoom-meeting from your unique device (2-farmers seeking credits cannot be sharing 1 computer to view the talks).

5-days of presentations, designed with the zoom-fatigued farmer in mind. **Ten Sessions will run 9-11am and 1:30-3:30 Monday thru Friday, December 13-17, 2021.**

Topics include: Tillage Reduction and Innovation, Tree Fruit 1 & 2, Berry 1 and 2, Vegetable Disease and Pest Updates, Automation for Small Vegetable Growers, Climate Adaptation Strategies on the Farm, Soil Health, Inspiration from Away.

[More Information and Register Here!](#)



Collaboration & Self-Reliance:
Building a Stronger NH Food System

NOFA-NH's 20th Annual Winter Conference Registration is Open!

February 6-12th, 2022

Online

Join NOFA-NH **February 6-12, 2022** for their virtual [20th Annual Winter Conference](#), "Collaboration & Self-Reliance, Building a Stronger NH Food System. As we experience the effects of climate change, working together as a community and learning to be more self-reliant will be integral to the achievement of food system resilience in the Granite State, ensuring that we can withstand and recover from any possible crisis or disruption in the future.

Register for \$35-65 (early bird pricing through January 2nd). Recordings of all Winter Conference workshops are included in the ticket price. Full scholarships are available.

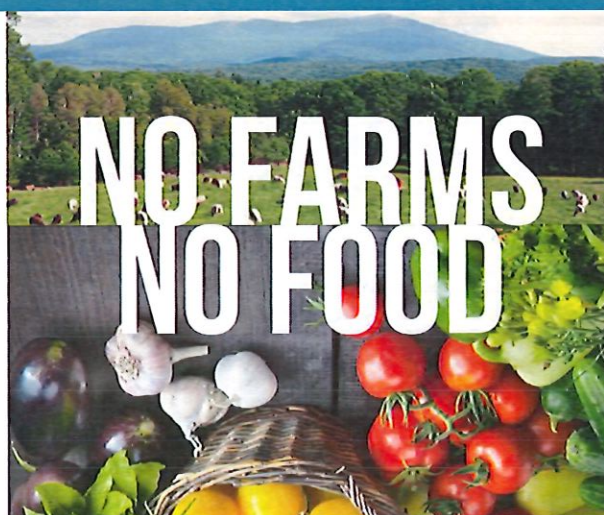
[Learn More and Register Here!](#)


Resources & Services


Help Us Update Our Local Farm Map!

Now more than ever, folks straying away from grocery stores and looking to local farms for fresh food, milk, eggs, bread, etc.

Help us ensure that folks know about your farm's offerings, hours, location, & more as we update our [Find A Local Farm Map!](#)



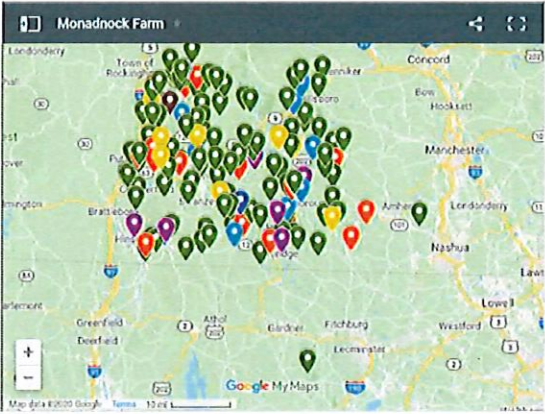


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CONSERVATION DISTRICT**


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Find a Local Farm



- Plant and Seed Sales
- Farm Equipment Rentals
- Skidder Bridge Initiative
- Find a Local Farm
- Historical Aerial Photography
- Soil Potential Index & Surveys
- Supported Agriculture (CSA)
- Pyro (PYO)

- Blue - Farm Stand
- Light Purple - Farmers' Market
- Dark Purple - Farm Stay
- Brown - Winery



How to Update your farm's info:

- Step 1: Visit the CCCD website here
- Step 2: Use the map to locate your farm
- Step 3: Review your farm's listed information
- Step 4: Email us with any necessary updates

Email to: benec@cheshireconservation.org
 Subject line: "Farm Map: "Your Farm Name"

Cheshire County Conservation District | 603.756.2988 EXT. 4
www.cheshireconservation.org | info@cheshireconservation.org



Cheshire County Conservation District | 11 Industrial Park Drive, Walpole, NH 03608

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